

COURT SECURITY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Monday, October 28, 2019 – Office of the Probate Court Administrator

Attendees: Judges Calabrese (via phone), Mariano (via phone), Jackie Buckle, Atty. Anne Holihan Alexis Lewis, Atty. Thomas Smith, Probate Court Administrator Streit-Kefalas, Jason Bowsza, Audrey Honig Geragosian

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.
2. **Comments of the Chair:**

Although this is an ad hoc committee, Judge Domenick Calabrese emphasized that it has an important role to ensure it maximizes what can be done to improve and maintain the safety of the courts. Over the years, many things have been undertaken in this area. Now is the time to identify issues we can begin to address.

3. Discussion

Goals

Updating – or having a first round of security assessments in some cases – had previously been a goal of the committee.

The number of new staff and new judges in the courts would suggest a need for a refresher on training.

Security Assessments

Jason has conducted security reviews recently in some courts and indicated all comply with some recommendations but none comply with all, given that these issues are within the jurisdiction of the municipalities and are paid for by them.

The committee voted unanimously to recommend all Probate Courts have security assessments conducted by police by April 1. *Even if there is not funding to implement all of the recommendations, establishing relationships with police and ensuring they are familiar with the challenges of the courts is important.*

System-wide Training

Committee members discussed the hiatus since the courts had any active shooter training or drills. Both individual court and system-wide training would be sought. PCA staff were asked to investigate what is available through the state police or Judicial Branch.

Court Training

Committee members discussed the importance of safety drills of all kinds – fire drills, evacuation drills, active shooter drills – as tools courts already have that they should be encouraged to practice. PCA staff were assigned to investigate available training materials via the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) or other outlets. It was suggested that one day be designated throughout the system as Court Safety Day where every court would spend a brief period of time to discuss such plans, with no cost or equipment required.

Committee members are to bring to the next meeting what materials they are able to identify that may be helpful in this area.

2020 Committee Meeting Schedule

The committee planned to meet the second Monday of every odd month in 2020 at 10 a.m. at PCA. These meetings will be: January 13, March 9, May 11, July 13, September 14, November 9.

4. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

Prepared on behalf of Judge Calabrese by Audrey Honig Geragosian